

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising a tubular framework having an outer surface and an inner surface and a plurality of interconnected struts, the struts comprising a plurality of serpentine bands and further comprising a generally linear connector strut attaching a peak of one serpentine band to a trough of an immediately adjacent serpentine band at the respective apices of each of the peak and the trough, wherein the respective apices of the immediately adjacent serpentine bands are axially aligned with each other in opposing directions, and wherein the opposing apices reduce a distance between the immediately adjacent serpentine bands and attach to the generally linear connector strut, the framework further comprising an outer covering of PTFE and an inner covering of PTFE, the outer covering extending along at least a portion of the outer surface of the expandable framework, the inner covering extending along at least a portion of the inner surface of the expandable framework, at least a portion of the inner and outer coverings being contiguous, the stent further comprising at least one radiopaque marker directly and only attached to the generally linear connector strut and disposed between the inner covering and the outer covering,~~the radiopaque marker attached to the generally linear connector strut.~~

2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the PTFE is in the form of expanded PTFE.

3. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is in the form

of a radiopaque marker band.

4. (Original) The stent of claim 3 wherein the marker band is wound about a portion of the stent.
5. (Original) The stent of claim 3 wherein the marker band is crimped to the stent framework
6. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is embedded in a portion of the stent framework.
7. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is located adjacent an uncovered region of the stent.
8. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker is in the form of a radiopaque plug which is inserted into an opening in the stent framework.
9. (Original) The stent of claim 1 comprising a plurality of radiopaque markers.
10. (Original) The stent of claim 9 wherein the PTFE is in the form of expanded PTFE.
11. (Original) The stent of claim 10 wherein the PTFE on the outer surface and the PTFE on the inner surface of the framework are coextensive with one another.
12. (Original) The stent of claim 11 wherein at least some of the radiopaque markers indicate at least one end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces.
13. (Original) The stent of claim 11 wherein at least some of the radiopaque

markers indicate a first end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces and others of the radiopaque markers indicate a second end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces.

14. (Original) The stent of claim 13 sized for use in a cranial vessel.

15. (Original) The stent of claim 1 sized for use in a cranial vessel.

16. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the radiopaque marker does not protrude beyond the outer surface and inner surfaces of the stent framework.

17. (Original) The stent of claim 11 wherein the radiopaque markers do not protrude beyond the outer surface and inner surfaces of the stent framework.

18. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 12 wherein the radiopaque markers do not protrude beyond the outer surface and inner surfaces of the stent framework.

19. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 13 wherein the radiopaque markers do not protrude beyond the outer surface and inner surfaces of the stent framework.

20. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising a tubular framework having an outer surface and an inner surface and a plurality of interconnected struts, the struts comprising a plurality of serpentine bands and further comprising a generally linear connector strut attaching a peak of one serpentine band to a trough of an immediately adjacent serpentine band at the respective apices of each of the peak and the trough, wherein the respective apices of the immediately adjacent serpentine bands are axially aligned with each other in opposing directions, and wherein the opposing apices reduce a distance between the immediately adjacent serpentine

bands and attach to the generally linear connector strut, the framework further comprising an outer covering of PTFE and an inner covering of PTFE, the outer cover extending along at least a portion of the outer surface of the framework, at least a portion of the inner and outer coverings being contiguous, the generally linear connector strut having at least one marker which is radiopaque or which may be visualized using magnetic resonance imaging, the marker directly and only attached to the generally linear connector strut and disposed between the inner coverings and the outer coverings.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of providing a stent framework comprising a plurality of interconnected struts, the framework having an inner surface and an outer surface; providing radiopacity to the stent framework in a desired region of the framework covering the inner surface of the stent framework in the desired region of the stent framework with PTFE; covering the outer surface of the stent framework in the desired region of the stent framework with PTFE.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of: providing radiopacity to the stent framework in a plurality of desired regions; covering the outer and inner surfaces of the stent framework with PTFE in each of the desired regions.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein the radiopacity is provided via radiopaque markers which are attached to the stent framework.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein each radiopaque marker is in the form of a radiopaque material which is wound around a portion of the stent framework.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein each radiopaque marker is in

the form of a radiopaque plug which is inserted into an opening in the stent framework.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the radiopacity is provided in the form of a marker which marks an end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surface of the stent.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein the radiopacity is provided in the form of a plurality of markers which mark at least one end of the PTFE on the inner and outer surface of the stent.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27 wherein the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces of the stent are coextensive with one another.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the PTFE on the inner and outer surfaces of the stent are coextensive with one another.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 wherein the PTFE on the inner surface is in the form of a first extruded tube of expanded PTFE and the PTFE on the outer surface is in the form of a second extruded tube of expanded PTFE.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the stent is sized for use in a cranial vessel.

32. (Currently Amended) A covered stent comprising:
a stent framework having an interior surface, an exterior surface and a marker region, the framework comprising a plurality of serpentine bands and further comprising a generally linear connector strut attaching a peak of one serpentine band to a trough of an immediately adjacent serpentine band at the respective apices of each of the peak and the trough, wherein the respective apices of the immediately

adjacent serpentine bands are axially aligned with each other in opposing directions, and wherein the opposing apices reduce a distance between the immediately adjacent serpentine bands and attach to the generally linear connector strut;

at least one radiopaque marker located within the marker region of said framework, the marker directly and only attached to the generally linear connector strut; and

a covering of expanded PTFE covering the interior surface and exterior surface of said framework in the marker region.

33. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising a tubular expandable framework having an outer surface and an inner surface, the tubular expandable framework comprising a plurality of serpentine bands, immediately adjacent serpentine bands having axially aligned oppositely pointing apices, wherein the oppositely pointing apices reduce a distance between the immediately adjacent serpentine bands, said framework further including linear connecting members connecting at least some of said oppositely pointing apices of the immediately adjacent serpentine bands, an outer covering of PTFE and an inner covering of PTFE, the outer covering extending along at least a portion of the outer surface of the expandable framework, the inner covering extending along at least a portion of the inner surface of the expandable framework, at least a portion of the inner and outer coverings being contiguous, the stent further comprising at least one radiopaque marker directly and only attached to the generally linear connecting members and disposed between the inner covering and the outer covering, ~~the at least one radiopaque marker attached to at least one of the linear connecting members.~~

34. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 33, wherein both the inner covering and the outer covering do not extend along at least a portion of the expandable framework.

35. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 33, wherein the expandable framework extends beyond both the inner covering and the outer covering.

36. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 33, wherein at least a portion of the inner covering is laminated to at least a portion of the outer covering.

37-39. (Canceled)